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NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES.

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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE


Health and Sanitary Conditions

OF THE

Norham & Islandshires Rural District

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December, 1947. *6.*



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Horham and Islandshires Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

General Statistics.

Area—47,011 acres.

Population (estimated)—4,442.

No. of Inhabited Houses—1,475,

Ratable Value—£18,523.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£80.

Social Conditions.

The peace time occupations of the area remain unchanged viz.—Farming, fishing, and coal mining.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Live Births	{ Legitimate	76	39	37	} Birth rate per 1000 population—18.01
	{ Illegitimate	4	2	2	

Still Births	...	5	2	3	} Rate per 1000 births—58

Deaths	...	63	33	30	} Rate per 1000 population—14.1

Death from puerperal sepsis—0

„ other puerperal causes—0

Death rate of infants under one year—

All infants—per 1000 live births—75

Legitimate infants—per 1000 legitimate live births—65

Illegitimate infants—per 1000 illegitimate live births—250

Deaths from cancer (all ages)—5

„ measles—1

„ whooping cough—0

„ diarrhoea—0

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Medical Officer of Health (part time)—Herbert F. Park, M.B. CH.B.
Norham-on-Tweed.

Sanitary Inspector—A. P. Robinson, East Ord.

Vaccination Officers—H. F. Park, M.B., and J. Elliott, L.R.C.S.E.

Laboratory Facilities—County Laboratory, Newcastle.

Ambulance facilities. Infectious cases—An ambulance is available by arrangement with Berwick Town Council. General cases—The only vehicle available in the district is the ambulance of the St. John's Brigade, at Berwick, a voluntary service, to which the R.D.C. is a subscriber.

Nursing. The district is served by the Northumberland County Nursing Association.

Hospitals. There is no change in the hospital accomodation. Infectious cases are isolated at Marshall Meadows Isolation Hospital, Berwick. The Smallpox Hospital at Oxford has not been used during the year. There are no General or Cottage Hospitals in the district, but the Maternity Hospital at Castlehills is available to the district.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water. The district as a whole is *not* well watered. The villages of Norham and Horncliffe are supplied by gravitation from Shoresdean, to which point the water is pumped up from a bore hole at Thornton. Scremerston also is supplied by a pumped supply, and both have proved adequate in quality and quantity. During the year work has been commenced on the improvement of the supplies at Fenwick and Holy Island. The council are negotiating for the aquisition of a bore hole at Longridge Towers, and this should greatly help the immediate locality.

Some areas are still very deficient in water supply, and until this difficulty can be overcome, the whole of the housing in the Cornhill and Donaldson's Lodge will be delayed. A scheme for drawing water from the Tweed, and treating it, is under consideration. The uncertainty which exists about the proposed County Council scheme for the supply of water to the North, is bound to slow down local effort till more information is available.

Drainage and Sewage. There have been no major changes in these systems.

Scavenging. During the year a scavenging scheme was brought into operation over the whole district, and is proving very satisfactory. This service will, in time, tend to eliminate the numerous village tipping grounds, and prevent rat infestation.

Rivers and Streams. There is no gross pollution in this area.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

		Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Smallpox ...	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	2	1	0
Diphtheria...	...	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	...	2	2	0
Puerperal Fever	...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	4	0	3
Measles	...	61	0	1
Erysipelas	...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	24	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	2	2	0

Tuberculosis.

Age	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pul.		Non Pul.		Pul.		Non Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0
1
5
15	1	...	...	...	...
25
35	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
55
65
Totals	1	1	...	1	1	1	...	...

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

Measles and Whooping Cough account for the bulk of the notifications. Two Paratyphoid cases occurred on Holy Island during the year. The presence of a carrier on the island, is a constant source of potential trouble. Added to this is the great difficulty in providing a satisfactory drainage and water system on the island, and also the inaccessibility of the place.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The percentage of school children immunised remains very high (98%) and that of the pre-school children (about 85%) has been maintained.

Scabies.

A few isolated cases have occurred and were treated at home.

Venereal Diseases.

There have been 4 new cases in the district brought to notice, and successfully treated.

Tuberculosis.

The incidence in the district remains unchanged.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT F. PARK, M.O.H.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR, for the Year 1946.

The following summary is given in accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, Part 4, Sec. 27, subsection 18.

Number and Nature of Inspections made during the Year.

No records exist of the number of inspections made during the first six months of 1946. The number of inspections made during the last six months of the year are as follows :—

Public Health Act, 1936.

Part Two	Sanitation and Buildings	77	
Part Three	Nuisances & Offensive Trades	16	
Part Four	Water Supplies	68	
Part Five	Notifiable Diseases	14	
	Total Visits, etc.	—	175

Housing Act, 1936.

Part Two	Inspection of Insanitary Houses	2
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Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926.

Visits and Inspections in connection with the issue of "Completion Certificates"	...	7
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Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Part One	Unsound Food	4	
Part Three	Other Foods	6	
Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	23	
	Total Visits, etc.	—	33

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Visits in connection with infestations	...	3
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Other Visits and Inspections.

(a)	In connection with repairs to Council Houses	...	76
(b)	With builders, in connection with repairs to be carried out to Council property	...	11

(c)	In connection with the Control of Civil Building Application for building licence and/or materials	...	75	
(d)	In connection with Salvage	...	12	
(e)	Miscellaneous visits, interviews, etc., in connection with the above and in connection with the general sanitary supervision of the district	...	65	
	Total, other visits, etc.	—		239

Total Visits, Interviews, and Inspections 459

(b) *Number of Notices Served During the Year.*

Informal	2
Statutory	Nil

(c) *Result of the Service of such Notices.*

Drains Repaired	2
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(c) *Summary of other work done without Notice.*

Drains Tested	5
W.C.'s repaired	1
Fumigations (1)	After Infectious Disease	3		
(2)	Verminous Premises	1	Total	4

Food Condemned.

Substance.				Reason for Condemnation.
Salmon	...	...	3 tins	
Peas	...	...	2 tins	
Spam	...	...	3 tins	
Sausage Meat	...	...	1 tin	Tins "Blown"
Jam	...	...	1 tin	
Milk (Full Cream standard)			2 tins	
Milk (Skimmed Standard)			2 tins	
Jelly	...	32 x 2lb. Jars		Fermentation
Jelly	...	7 x 1lb. Jars		
Butter	...	...	2½lb.	Decomposition
Bacon	...	...	9lb.	
Margarine	...	...	3½lb.	Contamination by Rats

Samples for Analysis.

		Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Water—Chemical	...	1	1	
Bacteriological	...	29	11	18
Milk	...	5		5
Ice Cream	...	2		2

Commentary.

Sanitation—During the year a scavenging scheme was brought into operation over the whole District, and is proving very satisfactory. The area covered approximates 72 square miles, and there must be few local authorities in England and Wales who can boast that a satisfactory service is maintained over such a large area, with one waggon and two men.

The Council have sought to acquire tipping grounds at Scremerston and Donaldson's Lodge, and these, together with a tip which they rent near Salutation Inn, should suffice for the whole District for years to come. The tips at Norham and East Ord should be closed at the earliest possible moment as being unsatisfactory, as should also the tip at Holy Island.

Water Supplies—Too much reliance has been placed upon surface springs in the past, for the supply of water to the populace of the District. These rarely give satisfaction as regards quantity, or quality, and some more satisfactory source must be found if housing work is to proceed without interruption.

During the year work was commenced upon improvement of the Fenwick and Holy Island supplies, and negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of a bore hole supply at Longridge. A scheme has been prepared for the drawing of water from the Tweed, which should suffice for the whole District, simply by the extension of mains. This scheme, however, is in the Committee stage, and no further comment can be made at the moment, except to say that such a scheme would be eminently more suitable than the multiplicity of small, and often ineffectual supplies, which are scattered throughout the District today, and should be less expensive to run.

Housing—It is regrettable that the Housing (Rural Workers) Act is not now operative. There is a very real need for some such Act in this District, but with increased cost of materials and labour the amount of grant would have to be increased to make it effective.

Conclusion—Despite the masses of "forms," "returns," and other documents required by the various Government Departments, the year has been one of steady progress, in the face of difficult conditions, and it is hoped, that in the coming year, progress will continue, but it is feared that such progress will be slow, until all classes of building materials and components become more readily available.

Housing Survey.—This is still proceeding. The detailed work is very considerable, and will still take a long time to complete

Plans for erection and alterations to properties have been submitted to the Council.

Fishing Shiel at Toddles.

W.C. at Horncliffe.

Cottage at Duddo.

2 Swedish Timber Houses.

Farm House and Cottages at Duddo.

Toolhouse at Tillmouth.

2 Houses at Fenham.

Alterations at Billylaw.

Do. Emerick Farm.

Temporary Garage and Gear House at Horncliffe.

Schools. The Hampshire privy system is prevalent in nearly all the schools in the area. Water is laid on where gravitation supplies are available.

Disinfection. All premises where infectious diseases occurred have been thoroughly disinfected, also all schools in the infected areas.

Dairies & Cowsheds (milk supply). During the year dairies and cowsheds have been inspected. The cleanliness of these has been well maintained, also flushing and whitewashing.

Factories & Workshops. These number 34, and have all been well kept.

Slaughterhouses. The two in the district are not now used as such, as meat supplies are sent from headquarters.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. P. ROBINSON,
Sanitary Inspector.

